# 465 Appendix

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# 495 A Appendix Overview

Organization. The Appendix is organized as follows. We first provide a summary of notations in Appendix B. Then, we present the details of the theoretical analysis in the main paper in Appendix C. Next, we show additional experimental results in Appendix D, including a synthetic visualization for different feedback approaches in Appendix D.1, the risk and estimation error comparison on real-world datasets in Appendix D.2.3 and the early stopping experiments in Appendix D.2.6. We discuss the limitation, future direction, and social impact of the proposed work in Appendix F. We provide the link to the source code in Appendix G.

# 503 **B** Summary of Notations

Notation	Definition
$(\mathbf{x}, y) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$	Data points
$D; p(\mathbf{x}, y)$	Data distribution
$\mathcal{L}_{ heta}$	Loss function of model $f_{\theta}()$
R	True risk
$B(f_{\alpha \mathcal{D}})$	True risk evaluated on model $f$ whose parameter $\theta$ is learned
$IC(J\theta D)$	from dataset D.
$\mathcal{S}_L, \mathcal{S}_U$	Labeled set and unlabeled pool
$\mathcal{Q}_t = \{\mathbf{x}_t\}^{n_t}$	The <i>t</i> -th quiz set
$q(\mathbf{x}), q^*(\mathbf{x})$	Test sample selection proposal and the optimal proposal
$\hat{R}_q, \hat{R}_t$	Risk estimator indexed by the test proposal $q$ or time step $t$
$\tilde{R}$	Integrated risk estimator
C a	Model confidence of $f_t$ and the weight coefficient for time step
$C_t, v_t$	$t$ in final $ ilde{R}$
$\mathcal{S}_{ ext{FB}}$	Active feedback set
$N_L, N_T, N_{\rm FB}$	Number of samples in learning, testing and feedback sets
$d(\cdot, \cdot) A_{\tau} \epsilon$	Diversity metric, diversity norm matrix, small positive value $\epsilon$ to
<i>a</i> (, ), <i>m</i> _, c	avoid singular issues
$q_{\rm ED}(\mathbf{x}) n$	Feedback proposal, balancing parameter between the proposal-
Чгв ( <b>х</b> ), 1	loss term and the diversity term in the feedback proposal
λ	Balancing parameter for the risk estimation in unlabeled-
~	information-combined early stopping criterion

Table 4: Summary of key notations with definitions

# 504 C Proof and Additional Analysis of Main Theoretical Results

## 505 C.1 Proof of Theorem 1

Proof. We start by presenting the asymptotic convergence of the active risk estimator and the solution for the optimal testing selection proposal  $q^*(\mathbf{x})$ . From [19], we know that using the risk estimator  $\hat{R}_{n,q}$ we would get an unbiased estimate of the true risk R because it is essentially an importance sampling based estimator. Then from the central limit theorem,  $\hat{R}_{n,q}^0 = \sum_{i=1}^n w^{(i)} l^{(i)}$  and  $W_n = \sum_{i=1}^n w^{(i)}$ are asymptotically normally distributed with

$$\sqrt{n} \left( \frac{1}{n} \hat{R}_{n,q}^0 - R \right) \xrightarrow{n \to \infty} \mathcal{N}(0, \operatorname{var}[w^{(i)}l^{(i)}])$$
(11)

$$\sqrt{n}\left(\frac{1}{n}W_n - 1\right) \xrightarrow{n \to \infty} \mathcal{N}(0, \operatorname{var}[w^{(i)}])$$
(12)

Then, with the multivariate delta method, we know that if  $Y_n = (Y_{n1}, ..., Y_{nk})$  is a sequence and  $\sqrt{n}(Y_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{n \to \infty} \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$ , then

$$\sqrt{n}(g(Y_n) - g(\mu)) \xrightarrow{n \to \infty} \mathcal{N}(0, \nabla g(y)^\top \Sigma \nabla g(y))$$
(13)

Here the function is  $g(x,y) = \frac{x}{y}$  with  $x = \frac{1}{n}\hat{R}^0_{n,q}$  and  $y = \frac{1}{n}W_n$ . The result is

$$\sqrt{n} \left( \frac{\frac{1}{n} \hat{R}_{n,q}^0}{\frac{1}{n} W_n} - R \right) \xrightarrow{n \to \infty} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_q^2) \tag{14}$$

where  $\sigma_q^2 = \int \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{q(\mathbf{x})} \left( \int [\mathcal{L}(f(\mathbf{x}), y) - R(f)]^2 p(y|\mathbf{x}) dy \right) p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}.$ 

Then, the optimal test proposal is obtained by minimizing  $\sigma_q^2$ . By introducing a Lagrange multiplier  $\beta$  for the constraint  $\int q(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = 1$ , we have

$$L(q,\beta) = \sigma_q^2 + \beta \left( \int q(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} - 1 \right)$$
(15)

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial q} = -\frac{p(\mathbf{x})^2 \int [\mathcal{L}(f(\mathbf{x}), y) - R(f)]^2 p(y|\mathbf{x}) dy}{q(\mathbf{x})^2} + \beta = 0$$
(16)

Thus, we have  $q^*(\mathbf{x}) \propto p(\mathbf{x}) \sqrt{\int [\mathcal{L}(f(\mathbf{x}), y) - R(f)]^2 p(y|\mathbf{x}) dy}$ .

Now, we provide the detailed proof for Theorem 1. As shown in Section 3.4,  $\widehat{\mathbf{R}}$  satisfies

$$\sqrt{n_t} (\widehat{\mathbf{R}} - R\mathbb{1}) \sim \mathcal{N} \left( \mathbf{0}, \operatorname{diag} \left[ \sigma_1^2, .. \sigma_T^2 \right]^\top \right] \right)$$
(17)

Next, we apply the multi-variant delta method. Define  $g : \mathbb{R}^T \to \mathbb{R}$ ,  $g(\widehat{\mathbf{R}}) = \sum_{t=1}^T v_t \widehat{R}_{\mathcal{Q}_t}$ . Then, we have  $\nabla g = (v_1, ..., v_t)^\top$ . Given the diagonal covariance matrix, the final variance is:

$$\sigma_T^2 = (v_1, ..., v_t) \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & \\ & \cdots \\ & & \sigma_T^2 \end{pmatrix} (v_1, ..., v_t)^\top$$
$$= \sum_{t=1}^T \int \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{q_t(\mathbf{x})} v_t^2 \left( \int [\mathcal{L}(f_T(\mathbf{x}), y) - R(f_T)]^2 p(y|\mathbf{x}) dy \right) p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$
(18)

When we perform the "final exam" estimation after gathering all quizzes  $\{Q_1, ..., Q_T\}$ , the other factors including testing proposals are fixed. We analyze the optimal solution for  $v_t$  by constructing the Lagrangian objective  $\sigma_T^2 + \gamma(\sum_t v_t - 1)$  (where  $\gamma$  is a Lagrangian multiplier). By taking the derivative w.r.t each  $v_t$  along with the Lagrangian, we have

$$\frac{\partial \left[\sum_{t=1}^{T} v_t^2(\sigma_t^2) + \gamma(v_t - 1/T)\right]}{\partial v_t} = 0$$
(19)

which leads to  $v_t = \frac{C_t}{\sum_{t=1}^T C_t}$ .

526 The Corollary below provides an alternative view of Theorem 1.

**Corollary 1.** If we do not change individual  $q_t$  but still combine all available test samples, then adjusting their importance weight by  $w'_t^{(i)} = v_t \times w_t^{(i)}$  gives the optimal estimator.

529 *Proof.* In the alternative view, we have:

$$\widetilde{R} = \frac{\widetilde{R}^0}{W'} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} v_t w_t^{(i)} l_t^{(i)}}{\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} v_t w_t^{(i)}}$$
(20)

where  $w_i^{(t)} = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})}{q_t(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})}$ . We can view the final estimate  $\widetilde{R}$  as a function of  $\widetilde{R}^0$  and W' that has the form  $f(X,Y) = \frac{X}{Y}$ . Then we directly analyze the expectation and variance of  $\widetilde{R}$  using the delta method: First we have

$$\mathbb{E}(f(X,Y)) = \mathbb{E}[f(\mu_X,\mu_Y) + f'_Y(\mu_X,\mu_Y)(X-\mu_X) + f'_Y(\mu_X,\mu_Y)(Y-\mu_Y) + R] \\\approx \mathbb{E}[f(\mu_X,\mu_Y)] + \mathbb{E}[f'_X(\mu_X,\mu_Y)(X-\mu_X)] + \mathbb{E}[f'_Y(\mu_X,\mu_Y)(Y-\mu_Y)] \\= \mathbb{E}[f(\mu_X,\mu_Y)] + f'_X(\mu_X,\mu_Y)\mathbb{E}[(X-\mu_X)] + f'_Y(\mu_X,\mu_Y)\mathbb{E}[(Y-\mu_Y)] \\= f(\mu_X,\mu_Y)$$
(21)

where  $\mu_X = \mathbb{E}[X]$  and  $\mu_Y = \mathbb{E}[Y]$ . Applying (21) on our estimate, and we get:

$$\mathbb{E}[\tilde{R}(f_T)] = \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n v_t w_t^{(i)} l_{it}}{\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n v_t w_t^{(i)}}\right] = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T v_t \mathbb{E}[\tilde{R}_t^0]}{\sum_{t=1}^T v_t W_{n,t}} = R$$

where we utilize  $\sum_{t=1}^{T} v_t = 1$  and  $\mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\widetilde{R}_t^0}{W_t}\right] = R$ . For the variance, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Var}[f(X,Y)] &= \mathbb{E}[(f(X,Y) - \mathbb{E}[f(X,Y)])^{2}] \\ &\approx \mathbb{E}[(f(X,Y) - f(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y}))^{2}] \\ &\approx \mathbb{E}[(f(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y}) + f'_{X}(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y})(X - \mu_{X}) + f'_{Y}(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y})(Y - \mu_{Y}) - f(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y}))^{2}] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[f'_{X}^{2}(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y})(X - \mu_{X})^{2} + 2f'_{X}(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y})(X - \mu_{X})f'_{Y}(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y})(Y - \mu_{Y}) \\ &+ f'^{2}_{Y}(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y})(Y - \mu_{Y})^{2}] \\ &= f'^{2}_{X}(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y})\operatorname{Var}[X] + 2f'_{X}(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y})f'_{Y}(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y})\operatorname{Cov}[X,Y] + f'^{2}_{Y}(\mu_{X},\mu_{Y})\operatorname{Var}[Y] \end{aligned}$$
(22)

## 535 Applying to our estimate leads to

$$\operatorname{Var}[\widetilde{R}] \approx R^{2} \operatorname{Var}[W'] + \operatorname{Var}[\widetilde{R}^{0}] - 2R \operatorname{Cov}[W', \widetilde{R}^{0}] \\ = R^{2} (\mathbb{E}[W'^{2}] - \mathbb{E}^{2}[W']) + (\mathbb{E}[(\widetilde{R}^{0})^{2}] - \mathbb{E}^{2}[\widetilde{R}^{0}]) - 2R (\mathbb{E}[W'\widetilde{R}^{0}] - \mathbb{E}[\widetilde{R}^{0}]\mathbb{E}[W']) \\ = R^{2} \mathbb{E}[W'^{2}] - 2R \mathbb{E}[W'\widetilde{R}^{0}] + \mathbb{E}[(\widetilde{R}^{0})^{2}] \\ = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \int \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{q_{t}(\mathbf{x})} v_{t}^{2} \left( \int [\mathcal{L}(f_{T}(\mathbf{x}), y) - R(f_{T})]^{2} p(y|\mathbf{x}) dy \right) p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$
(23)

where we utilize  $f(X,Y) = \frac{X}{Y} \rightarrow f'_X = \frac{1}{Y}, f'_Y = -\frac{X}{Y^2}, \mu_X = R, \mu_Y = 1$ . Note that since we assume  $q_t(\mathbf{x})$  are fixed, we have  $\mathbb{E}[W'\widetilde{R}^0] = \mathbb{E}_{p(y|\mathbf{x})}\mathbb{E}_{q_1}...\mathbb{E}_{q_T}[\sum_{t=1}^T v_t \sum_{i=1}^n (w_t^{(i)})^2 l(\mathbf{x}_t^{(t)})] = \mathbb{E}_{p(y|\mathbf{x})}[\sum_{t=1}^T v_t \mathbb{E}_{q_t} \sum_{i=1}^n (w_t^{(i)})^2 l(\mathbf{x}_t^{(t)})].$ 

#### 539 C.2 Proposition 1

We show two concrete examples for Proposition 1. In each case, the estimated introspective loss is analogous to an uncertainty measure.

• The estimation of 0-1 loss is:

$$R_{\theta} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_U|} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{S}_U} \sum_{y} \mathbb{1}(f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \neq y) p(y|\mathbf{x}; \theta)$$
(24)

which is the sum of the predicted probability of all classes other than the most probableclass.

• The estimation of cross-entropy loss is:

$$R_{\theta} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_U|} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{S}_U} \sum_{y} p(y|\mathbf{x}; \theta) \log(p(y|\mathbf{x}; \theta))$$
(25)

<sup>546</sup> which is the entropy of the predicted probability.

<sup>547</sup> When we use deep learning models,  $R_{\theta}$  usually largely underestimates the risk over the entire pool. <sup>548</sup> In other works such as [13, 14], the surrogate risk acts in a similar way. For the final risk estimator <sup>549</sup> to be accurate, the introspective risk estimation or the surrogate risk first needs to be accurate, <sup>550</sup> which somewhat beats the purpose of active risk estimation. However, we still try to improve this <sup>551</sup> intermediate step without assuming that we have access to an unrealistically accurate estimation, <sup>552</sup> leading to our proposed  $R_{\theta}$  in Section 3.3.

#### 553 C.3 Proof of Theorem 2 and Active Feedback Analysis

In Theorem 2, we formalize the combined learning-testing objective as a joint optimization problem 554 with the variable being a subset  $S_{FB}$  that can be transferred from the testing set  $S_T$  to the learning set 555  $S_L$ . We define the process of selecting the subset as the "active feedback" process, which connects 556 the learning and testing objectives through a balancing parameter C given in (8). Performing exact 557 optimization of the subset along with a parameter C would require more detailed knowledge on 558 the learning model and the AL strategy. We instead provide a general analysis to show that active 559 feedback could indeed provide an optimal solution for the joint optimization problem, where C scales 560 as  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ . Following our theoretical result, we empirically demonstrate the effectiveness of an intuitive 561 feedback approach in the experimental sections (Section 4.3, Appendix D). 562

**Proof overview.** We apply some generic generalization bound (e.g., [16] for CNN or similar models) 563 to the learning objective (1) in the joint optimization problem given by (8), which gives  $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{n})$ . 564 We then leverage the confidence interval to get a high probability bound for the testing objective 565 (II), which also gives  $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{n})$  [4, 9, 26]. We use the formalized results on the convergence of the 566 estimate as introduced in [19]. With that, we continue to show that both the learning and testing 567 objectives share the same dependency on n. These common dependencies on n give us the foundation 568 to further analyze the feedback process. We offer an intuitive justification of active feedback as 569 follows. The risk estimators are importance weighted estimates of the true risk. The estimate 570 converges to the true risk asymptotically, so fewer samples might hurt the quality of the estimate (due 571 to a large variance), but does not change the fact that the expected average of the estimate is still the 572 true risk. With the confidence interval conversions, we can see that except for the change of constants, 573 the objective's dependency on the number of samples does not change. (This also provides guidance 574 for the feedback proposal later: if we can keep the change of the estimate to the minimum, meanwhile 575 using the samples discarded from the test set to improve the AL model as much as possible, it would 576 be the ideal use of available labels.) Following these high-level ideas as described above, we present 577 578 the detailed proof below.

*Proof.* We first break the joint (I) learning-(II) testing objective into two parts and approach each part separately:

$$R(f_{\theta|(\mathcal{S}_L \cup \mathcal{S}_{\mathsf{FB}})}) \leq R_{CNN}(f^*_{\theta|(\mathcal{S}_L \cup \mathcal{S}_{\mathsf{FB}})}) + \mathcal{O}\left(1/\sqrt{N_L + N_{\mathsf{FB}}}\right)$$
$$\lesssim R_{CNN}(f^*_{\theta|(\mathcal{S}_L)}) + \mathcal{O}\left(1/\sqrt{N_L + N_{\mathsf{FB}}}\right)$$
(26)

581

$$\begin{aligned} \|R - \tilde{R}_{(\{Q_1, ..., Q_T\} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{FB})}\| &\leq \|\tilde{R}_T(\{Q_1, ..., Q_T\}) - \tilde{R}_T(\{Q_1, ..., Q_T\} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{FB})\| \\ &+ \|\tilde{R}_T(\{Q_1, ..., Q_T\}) - R\| \end{aligned}$$
(27)

The learning objective. As mentioned earlier, (26) is a common generalization error bound for CNN or similar models. For example, given a training set  $S_L$  with  $N_L$  samples, we can draw from the basic bound (*e.g.*, according to Theorem 2.1 in [16]):

$$R(f_{\theta|\mathcal{S}_L}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[l_{f_{\theta|\mathcal{S}_L}}(\cdot)] \le \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{S}_L}[l_{f_{\theta|\mathcal{S}_L}}(\cdot)] + C'\left(\beta'\lambda'\sqrt{\frac{|\theta|}{N_L}} + \sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{N_L}}\right)$$
(28)

with probability of at least  $1 - \delta$ , where C',  $\beta'$ , and  $\lambda'$  are constants and  $|\theta|$  is the total number of trainable parameters in the network. In our case, we do not make further assumptions about the constants and  $|\theta|$  is fixed for evaluating a certain model. Similarly, we can substitute  $N_L$  with  $N_L + N_{\text{FB}}$  and arrive at:

$$R(f_{\theta|(\mathcal{S}_{L}\cup\mathcal{S}_{\mathsf{FB}})}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[l_{f_{\theta|(\mathcal{S}_{L}\cup\mathcal{S}_{\mathsf{FB}})}}(\cdot)] \leq \mathbb{E}_{(\mathcal{S}_{L}\cup\mathcal{S}_{\mathsf{FB}})}[l_{f_{\theta|(\mathcal{S}_{L}\cup\mathcal{S}_{\mathsf{FB}})}}(\cdot)] + C'\left(\beta'\lambda'\sqrt{\frac{|\theta|}{N_{L}+N_{\mathsf{FB}}}} + \sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{N_{L}+N_{\mathsf{FB}}}}\right)$$
(29)

We notice that in both (28) and (29), we include the expected loss which is slightly different from the best possible AL model risks  $R(f^*_{\theta|(\mathcal{S}_L \cup \mathcal{S}_{FB})})$  and  $R(f^*_{\theta|\mathcal{S}_L})$ . However, the difference is usually

on a smaller scale than  $(1/\sqrt{N_L} - 1/\sqrt{N_L + N_{\text{FB}}})$ . In general, we assume that  $R(f^*_{\theta|(\mathcal{S}_L \cup \mathcal{S}_T)}) \lesssim$ 591  $R(f^*_{\theta|(\mathcal{S}_L \cup \mathcal{S}_{\text{FB}})}) \lesssim R(f^*_{\theta|\mathcal{S}_L})$  since more labeled samples can benefit learning (we do not need to 592 assume a strictly monotonic case for the sake of this analysis). For most AL strategies, the difference 593 between the expected empirical risk and the optimal risks given the learning set size is on a higher 594 order of dependency on n than the learning bound itself. If we ignore the higher order terms, we 595 can simplify the results as shown in (26). Then, the term and more importantly the change in the 596 learning objective that is related to the assumed feedback  $S_{FB}$  is only dependent on  $N_{FB}$  through 597  $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{N_L + N_{\rm FB}}).$ 598

**The testing objective.** The relation in (27) can be further analyzed by taking a probabilistic view. If we assume the risks are bounded in the third moment, w.l.o.g., the two risk-difference terms can both be generalized to a slightly more specific high-probability confidence interval [4, 9, 26] than the plain central limit theorem result itself: with probability of at least  $1 - \alpha$ , we have

$$||\tilde{R}_{T}(\{Q_{1},...,Q_{T}\}) - \tilde{R}_{T}(\{Q_{1},...,Q_{T}\} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\text{FB}})|| \\ \leq 2 \left[ F_{N_{T}}^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \frac{\tilde{\sigma}_{N_{T}}}{\sqrt{N_{T}}} - F_{N_{T}-N_{\text{FB}}}^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \frac{\tilde{\sigma}_{N_{T}-N_{\text{FB}}}}{\sqrt{N_{T}-N_{\text{FB}}}} \right]$$
(30)

$$||\tilde{R}_{T}(\{Q_{1},...,Q_{T}\}) - R|| \leq 2 \left[ F_{N_{T}}^{-1} \left( 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2} \right) \frac{\tilde{\sigma}_{N_{T}}}{\sqrt{N_{T}}} \right]$$
(31)

where  $F^{-1}$  is the inverse cumulative distribution function of the Student-*t* distribution and  $\tilde{\sigma}^2$  is the empirical variance. For the active feedback analysis, we only care about how  $N_{\text{FB}}$  affects the testing objective, thus also obtaining an  $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{N_T - N_{\text{FB}}})$  dependency.

The detailed balancing between the two objectives (I) and (II) requires specific knowledge about 606 the constants involved in the bounds. However, if we only focus on terms involving  $N_{\rm FB}$ , both 607 dependencies on the sample numbers are on the  $1/\sqrt{n}$  level, making it possible to be balanced 608 by a constant factor C. Combining these results, we get the  $N_{\rm FB}$  term as  $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{N_L + N_{\rm FB}}) +$ 609  $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{N_T - N_{\text{FB}}})$  (absorbing  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  terms that do not depend on  $N_{\text{FB}}$ ). The next key factor is that 610 throughout the entire ATL process, we either keep  $N_{\rm FB}$  fixed or only change it at a linear rate (flexible 611  $N_{\rm FB}$  should be an interesting future direction). Combining with our previous assumption that  $N_L$  and 612  $N_T$  are of similar magnitudes, we know that an optimal balance could be achieved between (I) and 613 (II) to minimize the joint learning-testing objective given in (8). 614

## 615 **D** Additional Experiment Results

<sup>616</sup> In this section, we present the detailed experimental settings and additional experimental results.

#### 617 D.1 Synthetic Experiment

Figure 4 shows how the proposed feedback strategy helps to encourage exploration. The background 618 color shows the model's predictive distribution. For each quiz, we display all the training samples 619 obtained by an active learner (red and blue circles representing 2 classes) but only the current quiz 620 (triangles) and feedback samples (squares, then added to circles in later AL rounds) from the active 621 tester to make the visualization clear. Figure 4a shows that ATL selects a feedback sample in the 622 bottom right corner because it is not included in the current knowledge base of the AL model. The 623 AL model predicts it poorly in the quiz. In Figure 4b, we see that the AL model is guided by the 624 feedback samples and starts to explore the bottom right corner. Once the AL model collects samples 625 from the bottom right area, ATL stops to provide guidance for that region. In this way, the proposed 626 feedback strategy manages to find the minority cluster at the other corner shortly as shown in Figure 627 4c. 628

In Figure 4d, to further demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed feedback strategy, we compare it with the feedback samples selected using two other baselines: random feedback (in Figure 4f) and AL based feedback (in Figure 4e), when the samples at the bottom right corner are first discovered. First, we notice that those data samples are found by the AL model rather than through the feedback strategies. As a result, it happens at a much later quiz time compared with ATL. Therefore, they result in a less efficient learning process. Second, we observe that when an AL model discovers a



Figure 4: Effectiveness of active feedback for improving model training

				<i>.</i>	
Feedback Strategy	Quiz 2	Quiz 3	Quiz 4	Quiz 9	Quiz 10
ATL	0.75	0.87	0.90	0.96	0.97
AL	0.75	0.83	0.84	0.84	0.88
Random	0.74	0.78	0.81	0.83	0.91

Table 5: Test classification accuracy

new area to learn, both baseline feedback strategies fail to provide support even though they have some test samples (*i.e.*, the red point at the bottom right corner) available in the interesting region. Last, we can see that at around quiz 10, the AL model with the proposed ALT converges to a better decision boundary that captures the entire data distribution while the two other baselines both fail to correctly discover the predictive distribution at the two corners. As a result, ALT leads to a more accurate model (shown in Table 5) while maintaining lower estimation error in the end.

## 641 D.2 Real-world Experiments

In this section, we provide more results on the real-world datasets including MNIST, FashionMNIST and CIFAR10, mainly to demonstrate different feedback approaches and how we can implement early stopping in ATL.

## 645 D.2.1 Experimental Settings

In all experiments, we use a CNN model and standard data transformation for each dataset. In each AL training round, we run 10 epochs for MNIST and FashionMNIST and 50 epochs for CIFAR10. A threshold of  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  is used for probability outputs as required for the proposal  $q(\mathbf{x})$ computation [13] to avoid 0 denominators.

An important detail to note is that for **ATL-NF** results, we **sample 50 additional data points during AL for fair comparison** (550 in each round), which is actually very similar to **ATL-RF**. The results with only 500 data points per round will be shown in the following section D.2.2. Another detail worth mentioning is that although we set the initial budget to be 500 labels and add 500 training samples plus 100 testing samples in each round, the final total budget is 12, 450 on average instead of 12, 500 because we allow replacement while sampling.

#### 656 D.2.2 Random Hold-out Test and Random Feedback

In this section, we discuss the issues with traditional hold-out validation/testing procedures during

AL and compare the results using random sampling for both test sample selection and feedback selection with the proposed learning-testing-feedback process. In Table 6, random test is referring

Dataset	AL round Method	4	8	12	16	20
	Random Test	$7.80 \pm 13.4$	$6.61 \pm 3.72$	$5.94 \pm 7.25$	$3.15\pm5.83$	$6.18 \pm 2.41$
MNIST	Random Test & Feedback	$30.4 \pm 42.2$	$16.8 \pm 16.1$	$5.34 \pm 6.33$	$11.8 \pm 10.6$	$5.62 \pm 2.73$
	Random Test & Weighted	$71.3 \pm 31.9$	$19.1 \pm 16.5$	$12.3\pm12.2$	$10.0 \pm 11.7$	$5.64 \pm 1.64$
	ATL-NF	$\textbf{2.57} \pm \textbf{1.17}$	$\textbf{0.79} \pm \textbf{1.15}$	$\textbf{0.17} \pm \textbf{0.15}$	$\textbf{0.56} \pm \textbf{0.30}$	$1.32\pm0.37$
Fashion MNIST	Random Test	$6.97 \pm 11.2$	$5.29 \pm 3.56$	$10.9\pm6.55$	$5.40 \pm 2.76$	$8.56 \pm 7.57$
	Random Test & Feedback	$12.7 \pm 13.4$	$15.4 \pm 16.0$	$12.7\pm6.93$	$18.8\pm20.9$	$32.7 \pm 15.4$
	Random Test & Weighted	$6.85 \pm 14.8$	$3.01 \pm 11.3$	$2.80 \pm 11.1$	$4.58 \pm 29.0$	$9.51 \pm 9.13$
	ATL-NF	$\textbf{3.64} \pm \textbf{1.61}$	$\textbf{0.67} \pm \textbf{0.38}$	$\textbf{0.96} \pm \textbf{0.16}$	$\textbf{0.98} \pm \textbf{0.43}$	$\textbf{3.04} \pm \textbf{1.37}$
CIFAR10	Random Test	$20.5\pm6.50$	$15.8\pm10.3$	$13.0 \pm 10.1$	$9.99 \pm 6.58$	$9.89 \pm 9.61$
	Random Test & Feedback	$44.7 \pm 36.4$	$16.4 \pm 15.4$	$31.0 \pm 12.8$	$11.7 \pm 8.65$	$55.3 \pm 19.0$
	Random Test & Weighted	$43.5 \pm 14.8$	$14.6\pm11.3$	$15.1 \pm 11.1$	$11.2\pm29.0$	$48.7\pm9.13$
	ATL-NF	8.83 ± 7.79	$\textbf{3.06} \pm \textbf{5.04}$	$\textbf{4.95} \pm \textbf{7.12}$	$\textbf{7.94} \pm \textbf{5.22}$	$6.20 \pm 5.79$

Table 6: Risk estimation error comparison with random methods

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to randomly sampling 100 test samples after each 550-sample (additional 50 for fair comparison, 660 same as ATL-NF) AL round and simply averaging the loss over these test samples. Random test 661 & feedback is referring to sampling 100 test samples after each 500-sample AL round and then 662 randomly selecting 50 for feedback. Random test & weighted is referring to the same process but 663 the quizzes are weighted by  $1/R_t$ . From Table 6, we can see that in the small-data regime, random 664 sampling may not provide an accurate estimate of the true risk. However, in later AL rounds, the no 665 feedback case (Random Test) can maintain an unbiased estimate, and we do see that some results 666 667 are comparable with active risk estimation baselines without the ATL-integrate estimator. This is 668 probably because existing active risk estimation baselines (ARE-quiz, AT-integrate, ASE-integrate) do not consider the biased selection and model change through the AL process. The methods that 669 use surrogate models also suffers from the insufficient training of the surrogate model. However, 670 random testing selection does not work well with the active feedback process. For Random Test & 671 Feedback and Random Test & Weighted, we often see much worse estimation due to the feedback 672 process involved. 673

## 674 D.2.3 Additional Active Feedback Comparisons

In this section, we show a more complete comparison between different feedback approaches. The feedback comparison consists of two parts: (1) baseline comparison including no feedback (ATL-NF), random feedback (ATL-RF), entropy-based feedback (ATL-EN) and (2) ablation study including loss-based feedback (ATL-LF), weighted loss-based feedback (ATL-WL) and the proposed weighted loss plus diversity feedback (ATL).

Dataset	AL round	4	8	12	16	20
	Method	-	÷			
	ATL-NF	$0.92 \pm 0.06$	$0.55\pm0.08$	$0.46 \pm 0.06$	$0.32 \pm 0.04$	$0.22 \pm 0.02$
	ATL-RF	$0.92 \pm 0.12$	$0.54 \pm 0.02$	$0.41 \pm 0.05$	$0.29\pm0.03$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$
MNIST	ATL-EN	$0.90 \pm 0.12$	$0.55\pm0.06$	$0.41\pm0.02$	$0.34\pm0.06$	$0.23\pm0.03$
WINDS I	ATL-LF	$0.89 \pm 0.10$	$0.56 \pm 0.04$	$0.41 \pm 0.02$	$0.32\pm0.07$	$0.20 \pm 0.02$
	ATL-WL	$0.86\pm0.06$	$0.53 \pm 0.06$	$0.40 \pm 0.05$	$0.32\pm0.07$	$0.22 \pm 0.03$
	ATL	$\textbf{0.88} \pm \textbf{0.07}$	$\textbf{0.53} \pm \textbf{0.04}$	$\textbf{0.39} \pm \textbf{0.03}$	$\textbf{0.26} \pm \textbf{0.01}$	$\textbf{0.19} \pm \textbf{0.03}$
	ATL-NF	$0.75\pm0.03$	$0.69\pm0.02$	$0.61\pm0.02$	$0.57\pm0.04$	$0.56\pm0.03$
	ATL-RF	$0.75\pm0.04$	$0.68\pm0.02$	$0.61 \pm 0.01$	$0.58\pm0.06$	$0.56 \pm 0.04$
Fashion	ATL-EN	$0.76 \pm 0.02$	$0.67 \pm 0.05$	$0.58\pm0.02$	$0.59\pm0.03$	$0.56\pm0.02$
MNIST	ATL-LF	$0.76 \pm 0.04$	$0.65\pm0.03$	$0.63 \pm 0.01$	$0.56 \pm 0.02$	$0.56\pm0.04$
	ATL-WL	$0.76 \pm 0.03$	$0.65\pm0.02$	$0.62\pm0.01$	$0.56\pm0.02$	$0.53\pm0.02$
	ATL	$\textbf{0.74} \pm \textbf{0.03}$	$\textbf{0.65} \pm \textbf{0.04}$	$\textbf{0.59} \pm \textbf{0.02}$	$\textbf{0.56} \pm \textbf{0.03}$	$\textbf{0.51} \pm \textbf{0.01}$
	ATL-NF	$1.91 \pm 0.04$	$1.76 \pm 0.05$	$1.72 \pm 0.01$	$1.66\pm0.02$	$1.55\pm0.03$
CIFAR10	ATL-RF	$1.91\pm0.03$	$1.77\pm0.04$	$1.69\pm0.03$	$1.60\pm0.04$	$1.54\pm0.07$
	ATL-EN	$1.92\pm0.09$	$1.76\pm0.04$	$1.70\pm0.03$	$1.66\pm0.04$	$1.54\pm0.02$
	ATL-LF	$1.94 \pm 0.04$	$1.75\pm0.03$	$1.65\pm0.01$	$1.59\pm0.03$	$1.54 \pm 0.01$
	ATL-WL	$1.94\pm0.04$	$1.75\pm0.03$	$1.63\pm0.01$	$1.63\pm0.03$	$1.54\pm0.01$
	ATL	$1.90\pm0.05$	$\textbf{1.76} \pm \textbf{0.02}$	$1.65\pm0.03$	$1.58\pm0.02$	$\textbf{1.53} \pm \textbf{0.02}$

Table 7: Hold-out test risk using different feedback criteria over 20 AL rounds

- First, we show the hold-out test risk of the AL model throughout AL using different active feedback
- approaches as the indicator of the model performance. From Table 7, we see that in most occasions, all active feedback approaches can reduce the test risk compared to ATL-NF.

Dataset	AL round Method	4	8	12	16	20
	ATL-NF	$2.57 \pm 1.17$	$0.79 \pm 1.15$	$0.17 \pm 0.15$	$0.56\pm0.30$	$1.32 \pm 0.37$
	ATL-RF	$26.8\pm21.4$	$21.4 \pm 17.0$	$3.54 \pm 4.01$	$5.54 \pm 3.21$	$7.62 \pm 4.41$
MNIST	ATL-EN	$23.6\pm24.8$	$14.0\pm15.8$	$13.8\pm11.7$	$29.5\pm21.7$	$21.8 \pm 12.8$
WIND I	ATL-LF	$15.6\pm12.6$	$42.4 \pm 36.9$	$48.5 \pm 25.8$	$15.7 \pm 14.8$	$10.9\pm7.44$
	ATL-WL	$16.5 \pm 19.4$	$21.0 \pm 24.3$	$7.36 \pm 8.44$	$11.4 \pm 12.7$	$7.59 \pm 4.45$
	ATL	$14.6 \pm 22.1$	$16.9 \pm 13.7$	3.19 ± 2.63	$\textbf{4.15} \pm \textbf{3.20}$	$1.87 \pm 1.41$
	ATL-NF	$3.64 \pm 1.61$	$0.67 \pm 0.38$	$0.96 \pm 0.16$	$0.98\pm0.43$	$3.04 \pm 1.37$
	ATL-RF	$10.2 \pm 9.30$	$4.41 \pm 3.77$	$2.19 \pm 5.53$	$5.69 \pm 4.52$	$11.6 \pm 7.51$
Fashion	ATL-EN	$93.2 \pm 23.4$	$50.2 \pm 10.2$	$78.5 \pm 32.4$	$76.2 \pm 59.6$	$85.8 \pm 25.9$
MNIST	ATL-LF	$9.36 \pm 10.2$	$27.2 \pm 26.0$	$22.6 \pm 28.3$	$14.6 \pm 12.0$	$11.0 \pm 15.2$
	ATL-WL	$8.39 \pm 8.97$	$7.52 \pm 6.09$	$4.89 \pm 6.50$	$7.29 \pm 4.45$	$11.1 \pm 7.02$
	ATL	$\textbf{2.50} \pm \textbf{2.93}$	$1.94 \pm 2.25$	$  1.78 \pm 1.07$	$\textbf{6.32} \pm \textbf{5.41}$	$5.03 \pm 4.41$
	ATL-NF	$8.83 \pm 7.79$	$3.06 \pm 5.04$	$4.95 \pm 7.12$	$7.94 \pm 5.22$	$6.20 \pm 5.79$
CIFAR10	ATL-RF	$20.6 \pm 17.6$	$19.1 \pm 13.7$	$9.82 \pm 8.03$	$33.6 \pm 30.5$	$24.8 \pm 32.4$
	ATL-EN	$30.3 \pm 17.0$	$45.8 \pm 24.4$	$20.3 \pm 17.4$	$36.8 \pm 31.7$	$27.0 \pm 27.1$
	ATL-LF	$35.0\pm27.9$	$45.8 \pm 28.5$	$20.3 \pm 10.1$	$57.2 \pm 33.6$	$40.5 \pm 34.0$
	ATL-WL	$22.7 \pm 19.7$	$25.0 \pm 13.2$	$12.9 \pm 21.5$	$52.2 \pm 45.9$	$28.7 \pm 16.3$
	ATL	$11.6 \pm 13.4$	$5.11 \pm 3.45$	$8.81 \pm 6.51$	$11.9 \pm 16.7$	6.57 ± 6.29

Table 8: Squared difference between the estimate and the true risk over 20 AL rounds ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )

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In Table 8, we show a full comparison of the squared error of risk estimation. All estimation results 683 are based on the proposed ATL estimator  $\hat{R}$ , where ATL-NF, ATL-RF, ATL-EN serve as baselines, 684 meanwhile ATL-LF and ATL-WL serve as ablation studies since the proposed ATL utilizes the 685 weighted loss as well. We see that all feedback approaches suffer from an increased estimation 686 error, especially in the early stage when the number of test samples available is small. We see that 687 the baseline methods suffer from increased estimation error. However, ATL can usually maintain a 688 similar level of estimation error after 20 AL rounds. For ATL-LF, there is usually a larger variance of 689 the estimation error. The potential reason for the unstable behavior of ATL-LF is that it only selects 690 samples with larger losses in the feedback process. Although the importance mechanism can make 691 up for some of the difference, there is still the potential risk of the estimate being biased. Further 692 combining with the diversity metric, we achieve the best results with ATL. 693

Concluding from both the risk results and the estimation error results, we show that the proposed feedback approach achieves a good balance in the performance-estimation trade-off. This is because we consider both the loss L and the importance weight q in the selection criterion. Overall, ATL achieves a similar model test risk as ATL-LF/ATL-WL, both of which are much better than ATL-NF and ATL-RF. ATL also achieves a much lower estimation error than ATL-RF, ATL-EN, and ATL-LF.

#### 699 D.2.4 Feedback Size Study

We also provide a study on the size of the feedback set. As mentioned in the proof for Theorem 700 2, we keep the size of feedback simple in this work. This is to be consistent with our theoretical 701 analysis and the experiments show that the active feedback process is helpful in this generic setting. 702 Further details about extending this will be mentioned in the future directions. However, even in the 703 simple setting of fixed feedback size, we can see that the learning and testing performances do not 704 consistently and monotonically change with respect to the feedback size. Although, from Table 9 and 705 Table 10 below, we can see that in general, model risk (learning performance) is better when we use a 706 larger feedback size, but at the same time the estimation error (testing performance) may become 707 much worse. The model risk on CIFAR10 behaves differently with the feedback size, probably 708 because the model performance is not good enough and adding difficult samples in this stage does 709 not necessarily help with the generalization ability. 710

## 711 D.2.5 Single Feedback Round Comparison

712 In previous experiments, we add additional training points for the no feedback case (ATL-NF) to 713 make fair comparison for the model risk. However, if we look at the risk change before and after a 714 single feedback round, the difference is even more obvious.

	-	0				-
Dataset	AL round Feedback size	4	8	12	16	20
	83%	$0.86\pm0.09$	$0.53\pm0.04$	$0.40\pm0.08$	$0.30\pm0.02$	$0.20\pm0.03$
	67%	$0.87\pm0.08$	$0.52\pm0.03$	$0.35 \pm 0.03$	$0.30\pm0.02$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$
MNIST	50%	$0.88\pm0.07$	$0.53\pm0.04$	$0.39\pm0.03$	$0.26\pm0.01$	$0.19\pm0.03$
	25%	$0.94\pm0.06$	$0.54 \pm 0.03$	$0.42 \pm 0.08$	$0.35\pm0.02$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$
	20%	$0.99\pm0.04$	$0.56\pm0.08$	$0.43 \pm 0.06$	$0.38\pm0.01$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$
	83%	$0.74 \pm 0.02$	$0.67\pm0.03$	$0.60\pm0.03$	$0.54\pm0.02$	$0.51\pm0.03$
Eachion	67%	$0.77 \pm 0.04$	$0.68\pm0.03$	$0.59\pm0.03$	$0.56\pm0.03$	$0.52\pm0.02$
MNIST	50%	$0.74 \pm 0.03$	$0.65\pm0.04$	$0.59 \pm 0.02$	$0.56\pm0.03$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$
WINDS I	25%	$0.76\pm0.02$	$0.70\pm0.01$	$0.62\pm0.02$	$0.59\pm0.05$	$0.53\pm0.03$
	20%	$0.77\pm0.02$	$0.71 \pm 0.02$	$0.64 \pm 0.02$	$0.61 \pm 0.04$	$0.54 \pm 0.04$
CIFAR10	83%	$1.92\pm0.06$	$1.71\pm0.02$	$1.67\pm0.07$	$1.59\pm0.04$	$1.57\pm0.04$
	67%	$1.96\pm0.05$	$1.75\pm0.02$	$1.64 \pm 0.04$	$1.58 \pm 0.04$	$1.58 \pm 0.06$
	50%	$1.90 \pm 0.05$	$1.76\pm0.02$	$1.65 \pm 0.03$	$1.58\pm0.02$	$1.53\pm0.02$
	25%	$1.94\pm0.08$	$1.76\pm0.03$	$1.70 \pm 0.03$	$1.64 \pm 0.04$	$1.59\pm0.02$
	20%	$1.91\pm0.03$	$1.76 \pm 0.02$	$1.73 \pm 0.03$	$1.59\pm0.02$	$1.63\pm0.02$

Table 9: Hold-out test risk using different feedback criteria over 20 AL rounds

Table 10: Squared difference between the estimate and the true risk over 20 AL rounds ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )

Dataset	AL round Feedback size	4	8	12	16	20
	83%	$50.2\pm39.8$	$21.0\pm24.3$	$7.36 \pm 8.44$	$11.4\pm12.7$	$7.59 \pm 4.45$
	67%	$25.6 \pm 23.4$	$29.3 \pm 29.7$	$6.90 \pm 8.05$	$6.24 \pm 6.71$	$7.50 \pm 5.07$
MNIST	50%	$14.6 \pm 22.1$	$16.9 \pm 13.7$	$3.19 \pm 2.63$	$4.15 \pm 3.20$	$1.87 \pm 1.41$
	25%	$11.7\pm11.5$	$10.0\pm7.98$	$9.73 \pm 11.4$	$4.76 \pm 5.25$	$1.59 \pm 1.96$
	20%	$28.0 \pm 24.4$	$11.8 \pm 14.5$	$5.91 \pm 3.82$	$4.31 \pm 4.80$	$1.25 \pm 1.36$
	83%	$8.39 \pm 8.97$	$7.52 \pm 10.4$	$2.77 \pm 3.58$	$3.87 \pm 4.45$	$11.1\pm7.02$
Eachion	67%	$8.59 \pm 8.77$	$8.60 \pm 10.5$	$5.42 \pm 5.96$	$4.05 \pm 2.47$	$14.6\pm13.8$
MNIST	50%	$2.50\pm2.93$	$1.94 \pm 2.25$	$1.78 \pm 1.07$	$6.32 \pm 5.41$	$5.03 \pm 4.41$
WINDS I	25%	$3.04 \pm 4.00$	$2.38 \pm 4.81$	$1.54 \pm 1.18$	$6.40\pm8.06$	$4.13 \pm 3.99$
	20%	$2.62 \pm 1.57$	$1.56 \pm 1.77$	$2.42 \pm 4.52$	$5.65 \pm 4.33$	$5.22 \pm 3.27$
CIFAR10	83%	$54.5\pm54.1$	$14.3\pm7.75$	$56.1 \pm 17.0$	$47.2\pm34.3$	$62.2\pm43.3$
	67%	$24.6 \pm 25.6$	$36.7\pm20.5$	$24.1 \pm 18.6$	$30.7 \pm 40.8$	$36.2 \pm 21.0$
	50%	$11.6\pm13.4$	$5.11 \pm 3.45$	$8.81 \pm 6.51$	$11.9\pm16.7$	$6.57 \pm 6.29$
	25%	$4.88 \pm 5.80$	$6.01 \pm 8.22$	$6.80 \pm 1.36$	$10.2 \pm 13.4$	$4.48 \pm 3.53$
	20%	$5.44 \pm 6.65$	$3.65 \pm 3.44$	$11.2 \pm 11.0$	$4.21 \pm 1.36$	$5.82 \pm 3.34$

Table 11: Hold-out test risk before and after a specific feedback round

Dataset	AL round Method	4	8	12	16	20
MNIST	ATL-before	$0.91\pm0.09$	$0.54\pm0.04$	$0.41\pm0.08$	$0.29\pm0.02$	$0.21\pm0.03$
IVII VII VII JI	ATL-after	$\textbf{0.88} \pm \textbf{0.07}$	$\textbf{0.53} \pm \textbf{0.04}$	$\textbf{0.39} \pm \textbf{0.03}$	$\textbf{0.26} \pm \textbf{0.01}$	$\textbf{0.19} \pm \textbf{0.03}$
Fashion	ATL-before	$0.77\pm0.03$	$0.66\pm0.03$	$0.61\pm0.02$	$0.57\pm0.03$	$0.53\pm0.03$
MNIST	ATL-after	$\textbf{0.74} \pm \textbf{0.03}$	$\textbf{0.65} \pm \textbf{0.04}$	$\textbf{0.59} \pm \textbf{0.02}$	$\textbf{0.56} \pm \textbf{0.03}$	$\textbf{0.51} \pm \textbf{0.01}$
CIEAR10	ATL-before	$1.97\pm0.07$	$1.82\pm0.05$	$1.70\pm0.03$	$1.67\pm0.03$	$1.57\pm0.04$
CITAKIO	ATL-after	$\textbf{1.90} \pm \textbf{0.05}$	$\textbf{1.76} \pm \textbf{0.02}$	$\textbf{1.65} \pm \textbf{0.03}$	$\textbf{1.58} \pm \textbf{0.02}$	$\textbf{1.53} \pm \textbf{0.02}$

#### 715 D.2.6 Early Stopping in AL

In this section, we show how the ATL-based risk estimation can be readily used for early stopping 716 in AL. In the above experiments, we observe a steady decrease of the estimated risk most of the 717 times. However, we do find the decrease becomes more insignificant near the end of the 20 rounds 718 of learning, especially for the MNIST and Fashion MNIST datasets. We observe that after a certain 719 amount of AL rounds, the risk decrease is significantly small, and the corresponding test accuracy 720 is also stabilized (MNIST around 94%, Fashion MNIST around 80%, CIFAR around 54%). This 721 gives us the opportunity to apply early stopping in real-life AL applications. We here show the 722 average stopping iteration and model performance (hold-out test accuracy) of the compared methods 723 in Table 12. Following the same threshold value, by augmenting the moving average of active risk 724 estimation given by (10) with stabilized prediction (SP), the combined method can stop at a similar 725 testing accuracy as compared with the SP method, but with much lower variance in test accuracy. 726 Based on the threshold setting, it is also possible to stop AL much earlier, saving the overall labeling 727 budget. 728

Dataset	Method	Iteration	Variance	Test Accuracy	Variance
MAUST	SP	15	6.8	94.52%	6.0e - 5
IVINIS I	Combined	11	1.2	94.08%	3.1e - 5
Fashion	SP	16	4.4	81.32%	3.7e - 5
MNIST	Combined	12.4	1.04	80.12%	2.4e - 5
CIEAP10	SP	12	2.8	53.87%	1.4e - 4
CIFARIO	Combined	12.8	0.16	54.43%	8.9e - 5

 Table 12: Average early stopping iteration and final test accuracy comparison (with variance)

# 729 E Details of Hardware for Experiments

All experiments were run on clusters with either NVIDIA A6000 or NVIDIA A100 graphic cards
 and Intel Xeon Gold 6150 CPU processors. The runtime of the experiments varies depending on
 the number of repeat runs, but is usually on the scale of a few hours. For example, to get the 5 runs
 results of one ATL setting for 20 AL rounds on MNIST or Fashion MNIST may take about 6 to 8
 hours. The CIFAR10 experiments may take slightly longer.

# 735 F Limitation, Future work, and Social Impact

In this section, we first discuss some limitation of the proposed framework and identify some important future direction. We then discuss some potential social impact of our work.

## 738 F.1 Limitation and Future Directions

In this paper, we propose an integrated framework that combines active learning and testing. In the interactive framework, the exchange of training and testing information should be carefully guided. Although the proposed testing selection is statistically unbiased and the active feedback is backed by the high-level analysis, we still have room for improving the specification of methods in applicable settings, which we will introduce here as future directions:

- From the learning perspective, we can improve upon the general setting in this paper. In this paper, we focus on introducing a general framework and working under the agnostic setting. However, using specific AL strategies can potentially provide advantages in certain use cases. There have been works that analyze AL label complexity bounds using either importance weighting mechanism in stream-based settings [5, 8] or other methods in pool-based settings [11].
- Continuing on the results from D.2.4 and the discussion above, the feedback size is a very important factor in the process, especially if we allow the size to change during AL. Further investigating the relationship between the sample size and the combined learning-testing objective can potentially improve the framework.
- We also propose the ATL framework under an AL-agnostic assumption. Given specific AL strategies, we might be able to also incorporate the learning or testing proposal in the construction of feedback proposal.

## 757 F.2 Social Impact

The proposed ATL framework considers the practical challenges of applying active learning in real-world settings, where both model training and evaluation require labeled data. It is a critical step towards realizing label-efficient learning in practice, which can benefit many critical domains where data annotation is highly costly. To this end, the proposed ATL framework has the potential to fundamentally address the data annotation crisis and further broaden the usage of AI to benefit the entire society.

# 764 **G** Source Code

The data and source code for replicating the results are provided in this link:

```
766 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10s9j2oUEuNCMOKjxDT852PtfvvsaoAtZ?
767 usp=sharing
```

```
768
```